

REMARKS

Claims in the case are 1 to 16. Claims 2-16 have been amended herein.

Claims 2-16 of the above-identified patent application have been amended as to form, for example, replacing "characterized in that" with --wherein--, and converting multi-dependent claims to dependent claims. Claim 16 has been changed from a use claim to a method claim by amendment herein. The title has been changed to correspond to the related International Patent Publication No. WO 00/23506. The patent application has also been amended to include an abstract on a separate page, which is included herewith. The amendments presented herein do not represent the entry of new matter into the application. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE SPECIFICATION: (Marked-Up)

The following is a version of the title at the top of page 1, with markings to show changes made thereto in the present Preliminary Amendment.

[Transparent high-strength polyamide film]

TRANSPARENT HIGH STRENGTH POLYAMIDE FILM

IN THE CLAIMS: (Marked-Up)

The following are versions of the amended claims with markings to show changes made thereto in the present Preliminary Amendment.

2. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to] of [c]Claim 1[, characterised in that] wherein layer (I) contains, in addition to polyamide 6, a polyamide selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 10, polyamide 12, polyamide 66, polyamide 610, polyamide 6I, polyamide 612, polyamide 6/66, polyamide 6I/6T, polyamide MXD6, polyamide 6/6I, polyamide 6/6T, polyamide 6/IPDI, copolymers of the monomers forming those polymers, or mixtures of those polymers or copolymers.

3. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to either] of [c]Claim 1 [or claim 2, characterised in that] wherein the particles dispersed in layer (I) have particles that, in two directions that are perpendicular to each other and are randomly selectable for each particle, each have a dimension of at least ten times the dimension of the particles in the direction having the smallest dimension.

4. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to any one] of [c]Claim[s] 1 [to 3, characterised in that] wherein the particles used in layer (I) are layered silicates.

5. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [Multi-layer] film [according to any one] of [c]Claim[s] 1 [to 4, characterised in that it] wherein said film contains, in addition to one or more layers (I), further polyamide-containing layers (II) containing no or less than 10 ppm nano-scale nucleating agent.

6. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to any one] of [c]Claim[s] 1 [to 5, characterised in that it] wherein said film contains one or more EVOH-containing layers (III).

7. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [Multi-layer] film [according to any one] of [c]Claim[s] 1 [to 6, characterised in that it] wherein said film has an at least single-layer sealing layer (V) on one outer side of the multi-layer film.

8. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [Multi-layer] film [according to any one] of [c]Claim[s] 1 [to 7, characterised in that it] wherein said film contains one or more adhesion-promoting layers (IV).

9. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [Multi-layer] film [according to any one] of [c]Claim[s] 1 [to 8, characterised in that it] wherein said film contains, in addition to the layers (I) and optionally (II), (III), (IV) and/or (V), one or more further polymeric layers.

10. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to any one of claims] of Claim 1 [to 5, characterised in that it] wherein said film has only polyamide-containing layers.

11. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to any one of claims] of Claim 1 [to 6, characterised in that it] wherein said film has only polyamide-containing and EVOH-containing layers.

12. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to either claim] of Claim 10 [or claim 11, characterised in that it] wherein said film has a thickness of from 13 to 30 μm .

13. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to any one of claims] of Claim 1 [to 12, characterised in that it] wherein said film has been produced in the form of a flat film.

14. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to any one of claims] of Claim 1 [to 13, characterised in that] wherein layer (I) forms an outer layer of the film.

15. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The [F]film [according to any one of claims] of Claim 1 [to 14, characterised in that] wherein at least one layer (I) is subjected, after extrusion, to a stretching operation selected from: stretching only in the longitudinal direction[,]; stretching only in the transverse direction[,]; stretching first in the longitudinal and then in the transverse direction[,]; stretching in the longitudinal and transverse directions simultaneously[,]; [or] and combinations thereof.

16. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) [Use of a multi-layer film according to any one of claims] A method of using the film of Claim 1 [to 15] in the packaging of foodstuffs on shape-fill-seal machines.